

# HIV Infection and Related Risk Behaviors Among Latino MSM in the Tijuana - San Diego Border Region

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## 1. Acknowledgements:

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- \* California Department of Health Services
  - Office of AIDS
  - Office of Binational Border Health
  - Viral and Rickettsial Disease Laboratory (VRDL)

## 4. Characteristics of Latino MSMs in the San Diego-Tijuana Border Region

AGE (in years)	San Diego (n=122)		Tijuana (n=249)	
	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent
18 - 21	13	10.7%	71	42.2%
22 - 25	30	24.6%	73	29.3%
26 - 29	79	64.7%	105	28.5%
EDUCATION				
< High School Graduate	6	5.04%	84	33.7%
High School Graduate	30	25.2%	89	35.7%
> High School Graduate	83	69.8%	76	30.5%
CURRENTLY IN SCHOOL <sup>1</sup>	30	24.6%	21	8.4%
HISTORY OF HOMELESSNESS <sup>1</sup>				
Ever	26	21.3%	168	67.5%
Currently	3	2.5%	38	15.3%
EMPLOYMENT (past year) <sup>1</sup>				
Full-time	74	60.7%	108	43.4%
Unemployed	11	9.0%	47	18.9%
HAD SEX WITH ANOTHER MAN FOR FOOD, SHELTER, DRUGS, OR MONEY (in the past four months) <sup>2</sup>	11	9.0%	74	29.7%

<sup>1</sup>Positive responses were divided by total sample size so that missing values are included in denominator. Less 1.0% of data missing.

<sup>2</sup>Data missing ranged between 2.5 - 3.6%.

## 7. Recent Sexual Risk Behaviors with Males & Females & Country of Origin of Sexual Partners<sup>1</sup>

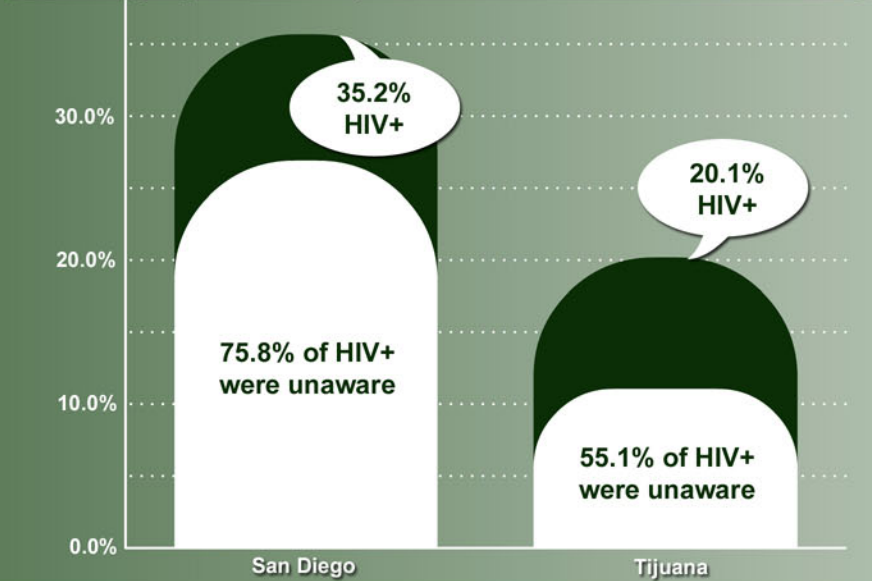
	San Diego (n=122)				Tijuana (n=249)			
			Included partners from Mexico				Included partners from USA	
	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent
Sex with men (past 4 months)	112	91.8%	-	-	143	57.4%	-	-
Among men having sex with men								
Unprotected, insertive anal intercourse	59	52.7%	39	66.1%	61	42.7%	26	42.6%
Unprotected, receptive anal intercourse	49	43.8%	29	59.2%	26	18.2%	7	26.9%
Sex with women (past 4 months)	11	9.5%	-	-	139	55.4%	-	-
Among men having sex with women								
Unprotected vaginal intercourse	8	72.7%	6	75.0%	101	72.7%	28	27.7%
Unprotected anal intercourse	3	27.3%	3	-	43	30.9%	9	20.9%

<sup>1</sup> "Recent" is defined as having occurred in the past four months.  
Note: Positive responses were divided by total sample size so that missing values are included in the denominator. Data missing ranged between 0.4% - 7.2%.  
7.2% of data was missing for "sex with women in the past four months" for the San Diego sample.

## 2. Main Objective:

To assess HIV prevalence, sexual and drug using behaviors, and history of HIV testing among a cross-section of Latino men who have sex with men (MSM) from San Diego, California and Tijuana, Mexico.

## 5. HIV Seroprevalence & Knowledge of HIV Infection Among Latino MSM in the San Diego-Tijuana Border Region



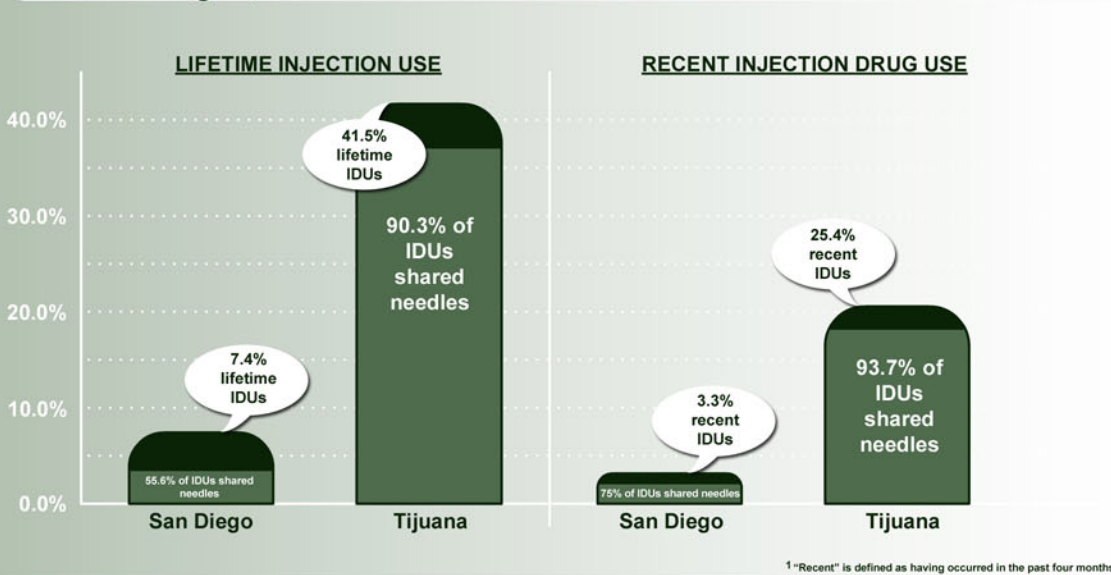
## 8. Country of Residence of Lifetime Sexual Partners Among Study Sample & Among HIV+ Subsample

	San Diego				Tijuana			
	Among Entire Sample		Among HIV Positive		Among Entire Sample		Among HIV Positive	
History of Male Sexual Partners	(n=121)		(n=43)		(n=249)		(n=50)	
	Frequency (%)		Frequency (%)		Frequency (%)		Frequency (%)	
	17	14.0%	8	18.6%	129	51.8%	19	38.0%
	74	61.2%	30	69.8%	99	39.8%	28	56.0%
	26	21.5%	3	7.0%	14	5.6%	1	2.0%
History of Female Sexual Partners	(n=57)		(n=16)		(n=216)		(n=50)	
	Frequency (%)		Frequency (%)		Frequency (%)		Frequency (%)	
	17	29.8%	6	37.5%	110	50.9%	19	50.0%
	15	26.4%	5	31.2%	92	42.6%	15	39.5%
	17	29.8%	2	12.5%	6	2.8%	1	2.6%

## 3. Methodology:

- \* Target/convenience samples of Latino MSM aged 18-29 in Tijuana, Mexico and San Diego, California (USA)
- \* Participants were interviewed from a standardized questionnaire (English and Spanish) and provided a blood sample
  - Questionnaire: HIV-related risk behaviors and access to prevention/care
  - Blood sample: Tested for HIV antibody
- \* Lab and questionnaire results linked via unique study ID #
- \* Tijuana sample: Largely from a public park reputed for prostitution (N=249)
- \* San Diego sample: Largely from gay bars/dance clubs (N=122)
- \* Data collection began May 2000 and ended June 2002

## 6. Injection Drug Use & Needle Sharing Among Latino MSM in the San Diego-Tijuana Border Region; Recent & Lifetime Measures<sup>1</sup>



<sup>1</sup> "Recent" is defined as having occurred in the past four months.

## 9. Conclusions:

- HIV has greatly impacted young Latino MSM in this region, particularly those in the 26 - 29 age range
- Risk behaviors among these Latino MSM differed between sites:
  - Tijuana MSM were more likely to report engaging in risky sexual behavior with both males and females and risky drug using behaviors
  - San Diego MSM were more likely to report engaging in risky sexual behaviors with men
- MSM at both sites engage in risky sexual behaviors with both men and women from the opposite side of the USA - Mexico border
  - Demonstrates the need for binational cooperation
- Difficult to generalize results because of sampling scheme